

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

12 MARCH 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

a. There are some signs that public confidence in General Khanh is on the upswing.

b. His recent visits to a number of provincial cities, some in company with the McNamara mission, have generated genuine displays of public enthusiasm.

c. Consul Helble reports, after a tour of highland areas in the northern stretches of the country, that there has been "some slight steadying" in both military and civilian attitudes toward Khanh.

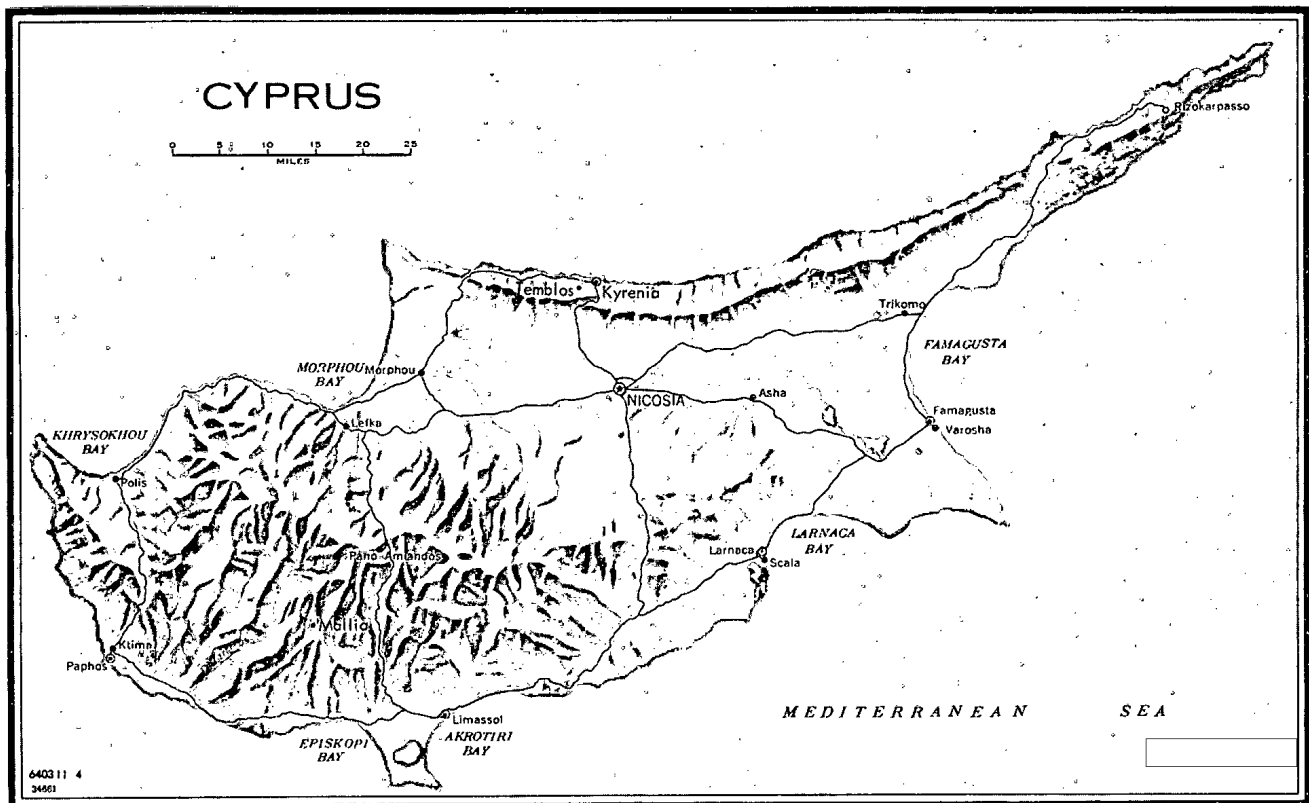
d. Helble found plenty of disquieting trends too. There is still a woeful refusal by local officials to push government programs in fear of further personnel shakeups at the provincial level.

e. He found, in Pleiku Province particularly, that many hamlets had deteriorated since November and were wide open to the Viet Cong.

2. Cyprus

a. There was less fighting yesterday, but new and more serious outbursts could come in Temblos, Limassol, and Nicosia.

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b. The Greek Cypriots say they no longer recognize the "green line" set up in Nicosia by the British to keep the two communities apart. The Turkish regiment is taking up positions to help defend the Turkish quarter.

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d. The Greek Cypriots are not helping. They take the position that their "security forces" can and should maintain order on the island. Accordingly, they are obstructing the British from interposing forces between these security forces and the Turkish Cypriots.

e. There is a fear, perhaps justified, that the same treatment will be meted out to the UN forces.

f. The Turkish Cypriots in many places have been effectively terrorized. In others, they persist.

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g. A UN peace-keeping force could be on the island in a few days although not all the details have been nailed down.

h. The Swedes, still the key element, say they are "ready and eager," but will need from one to four weeks to train those selected to go. The Canadians are standing by.

i. The Inonu government yesterday survived a vote of confidence in the face of criticism for "passivity." Erkin predicts that the government's days are numbered unless something is done to check present trends.

j. Ambassador Hare got the impression in talking to Erkin that the Turks are not contemplating drastic action. The Turkish fleet, which was at sea Tuesday, is back in Iskenderun, although it may have returned just to load troops and supplies.

3. France

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4. Cambodia

a. It now appears that, in the wake of yesterday's outbursts, Sihanouk has virtually renounced his idea for a four-power conference.

b. In a rambling and apparently improvised speech, he announced that Cambodia will send a delegation to Hanoi to negotiate a frontier accord as well as a pact of friendship and non-aggression. If the negotiations are successful, the Prince promised normal diplomatic relations will follow.

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c. Moreover, he said that an effort will be made to negotiate a "gentleman's agreement" with the Pathet Lao. He added that Cambodia will rely on the socialist countries to defend its rights if the Mekong is closed.

d. Paris, meanwhile, assures us that no member of the French military mission in Phnom Penh is accompanying the Lon Nol group.

5. Sino-Soviet
Dispute

a. The Chinese Communists have rounded on Moscow for its efforts to line up a big Communist meeting to condemn them.

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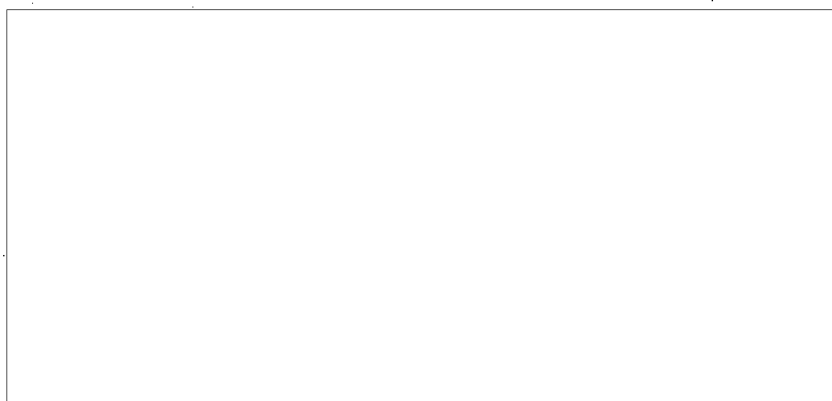
d. The Chinese brand these maneuvers as an underhanded attempt to split the movement.

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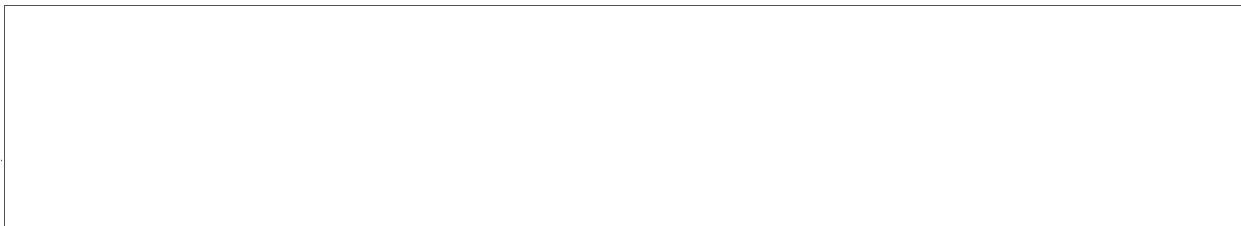
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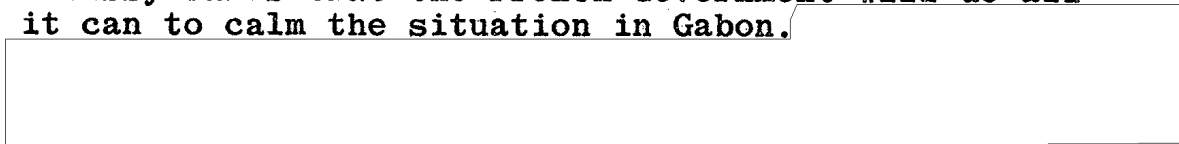
NOTES

- A. Venezuela Betancourt has done it. With Leoni's inauguration yesterday he fulfilled a long-standing ambition to be the first freely elected president in Venezuelan history to turn over the sash of office to another freely elected president. Only minor terrorist activity marred the occasion.



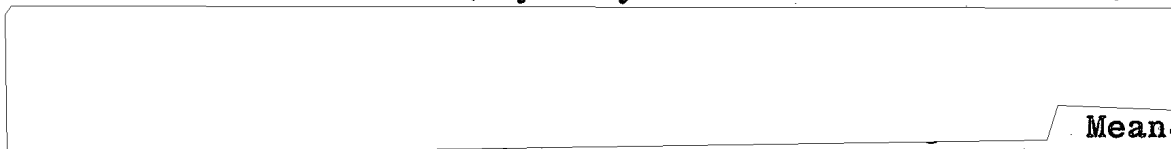
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- C. Gabon An official at the Quai D'Orsey has assured Embassy Paris that the French Government will do all it can to calm the situation in Gabon.



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- D. Zanzibar Okello yesterday acknowledged publicly that he had been asked to stay away from Karume's Zanzibar.



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Meanwhile, Sandys has told Ambassador Bruce that the Zanzibar government as now constituted struck him as "almost completely incompetent to administer its own affairs."

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E. India Ambassador Bowles saw Nehru Monday [redacted]

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F. France-China The treatment meted out to the French chargé in Peiping seems about par for the course. Chargé Chayet, who arrived on 23 February, has not yet seen the foreign minister, has had only the most formal contacts and no chance to meet people. Meanwhile, the French are embroiled in a dispute with NCNA over reciprocal rights for French newsmen in Peiping.

G. Communist China - Malaysia The Chinese, like the Soviets, are not letting their professed sympathies with Sukarno's anti-Malaysian policies stand in the way of commerce with Malaysia. Chinese trade with Malaysia--mostly exports from the mainland of foodstuffs and textiles--has continued apace, and it is doubtful that Peiping will give up this trade, its second largest source of foreign exchange. [redacted]

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